



D*R*A*F*T
Public Employees Benefits Board
Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2006
HCA Center Conference Room
676 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA
1:00 p.m.

Members Present

Steve Hill
Greg Devereux
Dr. Penny Palmer
Robert Porterfield
Lee Ann Prielipp
Eva Santos
Christine Sargo
Margaret Stanley
Yvonne Tate

Members Absent

Call to Order

Steve Hill, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Sufficient members were present to allow a quorum.

Approval of January 17, 2006, PEBB Meeting Minutes

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the January 17, 2006, PEBB Board meeting minutes.

Legislative Update

Mr. Richard Onizuka, Health Care Policy Director, gave an update on the results of the 2006 Legislative Session. Mr. Onizuka reported on several key bills that have passed the Legislature:

- ESSB 6386, Operating Budget
- SHB 2573, Health Information Technology Goals
- E2SHB 2575, Health Technology Assessment
- 2SSB 6197, Council on Health Disparities
- EHB 1383, Health Savings Accounts
- HB 2406, Tricare/OIC Omnibus Bill
- 2SHB 2683, Community and Technical College Employee Coverage
- SSB 6188, Prostate Cancer Screening

A handout was provided which gave a summary of each bill.

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Budget Update

Ms. Megan Atkinson, Financial Services Manager, provided Board members with an update on the 2006 Supplemental Budget that was recently passed. As of this meeting date the Governor had not yet acted on the budget. Ms. Atkinson gave members a handout outlining the impact of the budget for fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

Procurement Update

Mr. Barney Speight, Deputy Administrator, gave an update on progress to date in the procurement process for benefit year beginning January 2007. Health Care Authority staff have been meeting with several carriers regarding options for benefit design, and plan to bring potential alternatives, along with cost and estimates of implications, to the board for consideration.

Mr. Porterfield reported that he had recently attended a state-sponsored conference designed for new board and commission members, and recommended that board members attend if given the opportunity.

Public Comment

Ms. Theresa Adams came before the board to voice her support for approval of benefit coverage for gastric bypass surgery. Ms. Adams provided board members with a handout and offered to come before the board again and bring others to testify in support. Chair Hill advised that the board has discussed the issue in detail with respect to the medical evidence associated with the surgery, and will go through the same consideration again this year. Mr. Devereux thanked Ms. Adams for her persistence and ongoing efforts.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hill, Chair